

NEWS RELEASE

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Federal Grand Jury Indicts Decatur Man for Illegal Dumping into the Sangamon River

Springfield, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that the federal grand jury today returned a one-count indictment charging Ronald Mark Davenport, age 47, of 1768 N. Maple Avenue, Decatur, Illinois, with illegal dumping of a pollutant into the Sangamon River.

According to the indictment, Davenport, an employee and partner of Able One Sealcoating of Decatur, stopped at the Decatur Bulk Watering Station on September 19, 2004, to purchase water to clean tar and chemicals from his tank truck. The company used a 1,000 gallon tank mounted on a pickup truck known as "Big Sue," to haul waterproof coatings to work sites.

The indictment alleges that on September 19, 2004, Davenport pumped more than 250 gallons of water into the tank, then opened the tank drain and discharged at least 50 gallons of wastewater containing toxic pollutants into the water station's drain. At that time, the tank contained an unknown quantity of tar and other toxic chemicals. The water station's drainage system was designed to direct water to the Sangamon River, approximately 100 yards from the water station.

U.S. Attorney Heaton said, "Our office will aggressively prosecute any individual or business that engages in this kind of irresponsible dumping of toxic chemicals into Central Illinois' water supplies."

Davenport will be issued a summons to appear in federal court in Urbana at a date to be determined by the U.S. District Clerk.

(More)

If convicted, the penalty for violation of the Clean Water Act is up to three years imprisonment and a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of the violation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy A. Bass and the investigative agents of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are handling prosecution of the case.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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